

MAGNIFICENT RECORD

Of Building Operations in the Present Season in Wheeling.

OVER A MILLION DOLLARS SPENT.

A Showing that would make any town that could make it crazy. The Character of the Buildings Shows Progress on the Part of the City—Other Big Improvements.

It has been a matter of general comment in the building season just closing, both by Wheeling people and visitors, that the city was growing and improving at a rate never experienced in her history before. The large number of new buildings going up, the unusually imposing and costly character of many of them, and the tasteful architecture displayed, have thoroughly impressed everybody who gets about over town much. That a new era has set in for Wheeling was shown by the completion of such buildings as the new Stifel block, on Main street, and the progress of the new City Bank building and others. In the style of both her residences and her business houses Wheeling has not been abreast of the age in past years; today she is far ahead of the average town of her size, and the best of it is that she seems to have "got a move on her," to use a colloquial but significant expression, the good fruits of which have not begun to be seen. It is no longer, as it seemed to be a long time ago, a question of "good enough" with those who build, but the problem is how to excel all others.

THE GREAT PROGRESS APPARENT. It needs but a glance at the two buildings named above, the new St. James church, Mr. Anton Reymann's residence on Fifteenth street, the improvements in progress by the two brewing companies, or the Schaefer block, on Main street—to instance but a few of the creditable structures now in some stage of progress—to demonstrate that progress is the watchword of the community, and this fact has been apparent to everybody for some time past.

It is still safe to say, however, that not a half-dozen people in Wheeling, not in some way connected with the building trades, have an adequate conception of the amount of money spent, the amount of taxable values to be added to the annual assessments, the extent of the improvement of the city, as the result of this season's unprecedented operations. Manufacturing establishments, residences, public buildings, business blocks, have gone up or are going up in sufficient number to make the city seem prosperous if the operations were spread out over three or four years.

SOME THINGS NOT COUNTED. For the purposes of the present review it is not proposed to take into account the work done by the Wheeling Bridge & Terminal Railway Company, except as to the new buildings actually erected by that company, nor the work of the Wheeling Bridge Company, which has just completed its two great bridges over the two channels of the Ohio river, nor the city's bridges, the Baltimore & Ohio and Ohio River bridges over Caldwell's run, and the unusually large amount of that class of work that has added for the past year to the general sum of local prosperity. The Wheeling Bridge Company's bridges, just thrown open to the public, not only represent an expenditure of nearly three-quarters of a million of dollars, but they so increase the facilities for business communication as to be worth to the city much more than what they have cost their enterprising builders. The Terminal company's expenditure benefits the town in the same way, besides setting in circulation the large amount of money. The city's Main street bridge, while its final total cost is yet a matter of dispute, will certainly cost not less than \$100,000, and these enterprises, with the other bridges, of which so many have come up, and the street improvements and the like done this year, will represent a cost of certainly not less than two millions of dollars.

ENOUGH HOUSES TO MAKE A TOWN. Outside of these great works, however, there have been enough houses erected to make a pretty good sized town, and enough money spent on them to make a very good sized one. There is not a section of the city that has not shared in this prosperity. Even away up on the hill and around the hill on the "Goozestown" flats, not choice places for residences, there have been some fine residences erected, and in the Caldwell run vicinity, in the lower end of the Eighth ward and on the Island a regular building boom has been experienced. To enumerate all the buildings that have gone up would consume all the space in one issue of the INTELLIGENCER. The following formidable list is not presented as in any measure complete. It merely contains most of the fairly representative buildings that have been completed this season, or are now approaching completion. Incomplete as it is, it represents an expenditure of considerably over a million dollars:

North Wheeling Hospital addition.....	\$ 7,500
St. John's church.....	90,000
Mr. Robinson, North Wheeling.....	3,000
Valiant engine house.....	8,000
W. A. Wilson's residence.....	7,200
St. John's church.....	5,000
St. Mary's church.....	6,000
St. Peter's church.....	4,000
St. Paul's church.....	4,500
St. Anthony's church.....	4,500
St. Francis church.....	4,500
St. Vincent church.....	4,500
St. Elizabeth church.....	4,500
St. Agnes church.....	4,500
St. Clare church.....	4,500
St. Ann church.....	4,500
St. Rose church.....	4,500
St. Joseph church.....	4,500
St. Michael church.....	4,500
St. Gabriel church.....	4,500
St. Raphael church.....	4,500
St. Nicholas church.....	4,500
St. Ignace church.....	4,500
St. Francis Xavier church.....	4,500
St. John the Baptist church.....	4,500
St. Lawrence church.....	4,500
St. Peter and Paul church.....	4,500
St. Andrew church.....	4,500
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